

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 098820 TOSEC 040123
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY S:PTARNOFF

APPROVED BY S - MR. TARNOFF

-----060762 181643Z /72

O 181629Z APR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 098820 TOSEC 040123

FOR ANDERSON FROM TARNOFF

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE

1. BEGIN TEXT OF TUESDAY, APRIL 18 ARTICLE: AIDES GIVEN
'TOUGH' TALK BY PRESIDENT. STAFF AND CABINET TOLD 'SHAKE-
DOWN CRUISE IS OVER.' BY DAVID S. BRODER AND EDWARD WALSH.
2. PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD HIS SENIOR STAFF AND CABINET
"THE SHAKEDOWN CRUISE IS OVER" IN A "VERY TOUGH" ASSESSMENT
OF ADMINISTRATION PROBLEMS SUNDAY AND YESTERDAY, INFORMED
ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID LAST NIGHT.
3. "THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT SOME MISTAKES HE THINKS HE
HAS MADE, BUT HE MADE IT DAMN CLEAR THAT WE'VE HAD 15
MONTHS NOW AND THE SHAKEDOWN CRUISE IS OVER," WHITE HOUSE
PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL SAID.
4. THE PRIVATE TALKS AT CAMP DAVID WERE DESCRIBED BY
OTHERS AS "THE FIRST TIME CARTER HAS EVER GOTTEN TOUGH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 098820 TOSEC 040123

WITH HIS PEOPLE."

5. CARTER, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, CITED SPECIFIC
INSTANCES WHERE CABINET DEPARTMENTS HAD NOT SUPPORTED
ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS ON LEGISLATION AND WHERE THE WHITE
HOUSE STAFF HAD ACTED WITHOUT GIVING THE CABINET MEMBERS

LEAD TIME TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON.

6. APPARENTLY REFLECTING HIS OWN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SUCH OUTSIDE ADVISERS AS ATLANTA LAWYER CHARLES KIRBO, THE PRESIDENT "WORKED OVER" THE SENIOR STAFF ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT, AND THEN HAD A "STIFF" SESSION WITH THE CABINET ALONE YESTERDAY MORNING.

7. LATER, THE TWO GROUPS JOINED TO DISCUSS THE STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO GET ON TOP OF MAJOR POLICY PROBLEMS AND REVERSE THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN CARTER'S APPROVAL RATING IN THE PUBLIC OPINION POLLS.

8. CARTER REPORTEDLY REITERATED CONFIDENCE IN ALL HIS CABINET MEMBERS AND PLEDGED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ABANDONMENT OF "CABINET GOVERNMENT" IN FAVOR OF A MORE CENTRALIZED WHITE HOUSE STAFF CONTROL.

9. BUT, OFFICIALS SAID, ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF WILL BE ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK OR NEXT AND CARTER STRESSED TO BOTH CABINET OFFICIALS AND HIS SENIOR STAFF THEIR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OWN OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS.

10. "HE TOLD US," ONE OFFICIAL SAID, "THAT 'YOU HIRED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 098820 TOSEC 040123

YOUR OFFICE. EITHER IT WORKS OR IT DOESN'T WORK. IT'S YOUR JOB TO SEE THAT IT WORKS.' "

11. "THERE WAS SOME TALK," THIS SOURCE ADDED, "THAT EITHER PEOPLE SHOULD SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT."

12. CABINET OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE UNUSUALLY GUARDED IN THEIR COMMENTS ABOUT THE MEETING BUT MOST SUGGESTED THAT IT HAD CLEARED THE AIR AND BROUGHT A CLOSER FEELING OF TEAMWORK.

13. CARTER REPORTEDLY "READ THE RIOT ACT" TO BOTH GROUPS ABOUT LEAKS TO THE PRESS CRITICAL OF ADMINISTRATION COLLEAGUES. "HE SAID THAT IF YOU'RE SORE, JUST BITE YOUR LIP. DON'T POP OFF TO YOUR STAFF AND LET THEM LEAK IT TO THE PRESS," ONE OFFICIAL SAID.

14. THE MEETING HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY REPORTS THAT CARTER WOULD ABANDON SOME OF HIS RELIANCE ON CABINET AUTONOMY IN FAVOR OF TIGHTER, MORE CENTRALIZED WHITE HOUSE PLANNING.

15. BUT, POWELL SAID, "THIS WAS NOT A PROCESS TO ABANDON

THE CONCEPT OF CABINET GOVERNMENT OR TO PROVIDE GREATER
CENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY IN THE WHITE HOUSE."

16. SPECIFIC STEPS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF POLICY MAY
HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT CAMP DAVID, BUT OFFICIALS WILLING
TO TALK LAST NIGHT PROVIDED NO DETAILS OF THOSE CHANGES.

17. THE WHITE HOUSE AND CABINET OFFICIALS, ACCOMPANIED
BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO CAMP
DAVID SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

18. SUNDAY WAS SPENT RELAXING AND MEETING IN SMALL,
INFORMAL GROUPS. SUNDAY NIGHT, THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE,
ROSALYNN, HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR THE OFFICIALS BEFORE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 098820 TOSEC 040123

DINNER.

19. YESTERDAY, CARTER MET ALONE WITH HIS CABINET FOR AN
HOUR BEFORE INVITING HIS WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS TO JOIN THE
GROUP. YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS LASTED FROM 8:45 AM TO NOON.

20. THE PRESIDENT LATER TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD FOUND
THE SESSIONS "PROFITABLE, VERY HELPFUL." ASKED IF HE
WOULD NOW DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY, HE SAID, "WE'LL DO THINGS
BETTER."

21. POWELL, WHO CALLED THE MEETINGS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND
PRODUCTIVE," SAID SIMILAR SESSIONS WILL BE HELD EVERY FEW
MONTHS.

22. CARTER RETURNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE AT 2 PM YESTERDAY.
HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. CARTER, KIRBO AND ATTORNEY GEN-
ERAL GRIFFIN B. BELL.

23. KIRBO WAS THE ONLY PERSON WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL POSITION
IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS, POWELL SAID.
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE098820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PTARNOFF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0026
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780444/aaaabkwq.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 258007ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2929777
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE
TAGS: OVIP, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/258007ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014